

## Message Text

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47

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DRAFTED BY OMSN:FHWILLIAMS:JMWILSON :MJW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS

UNCLAS STATE 263136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT:

FOR STATUS LNO FROM AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ME TO SENATOR SALII

WITH COPY TO CHAIRMAN SILK: QUOTE

DEAR LAZARUS:

YOUR MESSAGE TO ME OF NOVEMBER 20 AND SEPARATE MESSAGE TO SECRETARY MORTON OF NOVEMBER 18 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS HAVE SURPRISED ALL OF US WHO WERE IN HONOLULU SINCE THEY SEEM TO DEPART IN MANY IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF LESS THAN A MONTH AGO. YOU WILL RECALL EARLY IN HONOLULU YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE RETURN OF THE PUBLIC LANDS BY EXECUTIVE ORDER WAS NOT RULED OUT AND THAT "THE RESULTS ARE WHAT COUNTS NOT THE METHOD". IT WAS ALSO OBSERVED THAT SOME FORM OF EXECUTIVE ACTION WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ANY EVENT. INDEED, MOST OF OUR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND THE MEANS BY WHICH EXECUTIVE ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN AND CULMINATED IN YOUR REQUESTS FOR MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF A SECRETARIAL ORDER AND A STATEMENT FROM ME IN WRITING OF WAYS BY WHICH THE TRANSFER OF TITLE TO PALAU BY EXECUTIVE ACTION COULD BE EXPEDITED. WE SAID THE NEXT DAY, AFTER CHECKING SPECIFICALLY ON THIS POINT WITH WASHINGTON, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR WOULD WELCOME THE ADVICE OF MICRONESIAN LEADERS, INCLUDING

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MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND THE SECRETAR-

IAL ORDER WOULD NOT BE ISSUED PENDING SUCH CONSULTATION.

CERTAINLY THROUGHOUT THIS DISCUSSION I REGRET TO SAY THAT NONE OF US PRESENT HAS ANY RECOLLECTION OF THE "CONDITIONS" YOU SAY YOU LAID DOWN, AS ALSO ENUMERATED IN A RECENT MNS RELEASE. WE DO BELIEVE YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT EXECUTIVE ACTION REPORTED IN THE NOVEMBER 8 "VARIETIES" REPRESENTS MUCH MORE CLOSELY OUR RECOLLECTION OF WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID.

IN THIS REGARD WE MADE A DELIBERATE EFFORT IN HONOLULU--AND THOUGHT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL--TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU AND EKPAP UNDERSTOOD THAT A BASIC U.S. DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE ACTION THAT WAS GOING TO BE TAKEN WAS IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER REQUESTS FROM YOU, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND FROM SOME DISTRICTS. INITIALLY, AS YOU KNOW, YOU REQUESTED IN WRITING THAT THE LANDS BE RETURNED BY A SECRETARIAL ORDER OR AN EXECUTIVE ACTION BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. I RECOGNIZE THAT IN BETWEEN YOU MAY HAVE ADOPTED OTHER POSITIONS BUT CERTAINLY THE ONE OUTLINED IN YOUR MOST RECENT CABLE DIFFERS MATERIALLY FROM THE ONE WE THOUGHT YOU HAD TAKEN IN HONOLULU LAST MONTH.

WHAT WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE CLEAR ABOUT IS THAT THE U.S. POLICY IS RESPONSIVE TO WHAT WE WERE TOLD REPEATEDLY WERE THE WISHES OF MANY OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. IT IS A PERMISSIVE POLICY IN THAT IT WOULD BE ACTIVATED ONLY UPON THE REQUEST OF THE PEOPLE OF A DISTRICT. IT IS A POLICY WHICH THE JCFS SAID IT ENDORSED IN NOVEMBER 1973 AS DID THE LEADERSHIP IN TWO DISTRICTS.

WE NOW KNOW OF NOTHING THAT SHOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA FOR THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS TO THE DISTRICTS TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THEM ON EXACTLY THE SAME BASIS THAT WAS ENDORSED BY THE JCFS LAST YEAR. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE MEETING WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HAS CALLED WILL BRING ABOUT A FULL UNDERSTANDING AND A SPIRIT OF FULL COOPERATION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE DISTRICTS WHICH WANT TITLE TO THESE PUBLIC LANDS TO RECEIVE SUCH TITLE WITHOUT ANY FURTHER UNNECESSARY DELAY.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS TO EKPAP.

SINCERELY YOURS, HAYDN. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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